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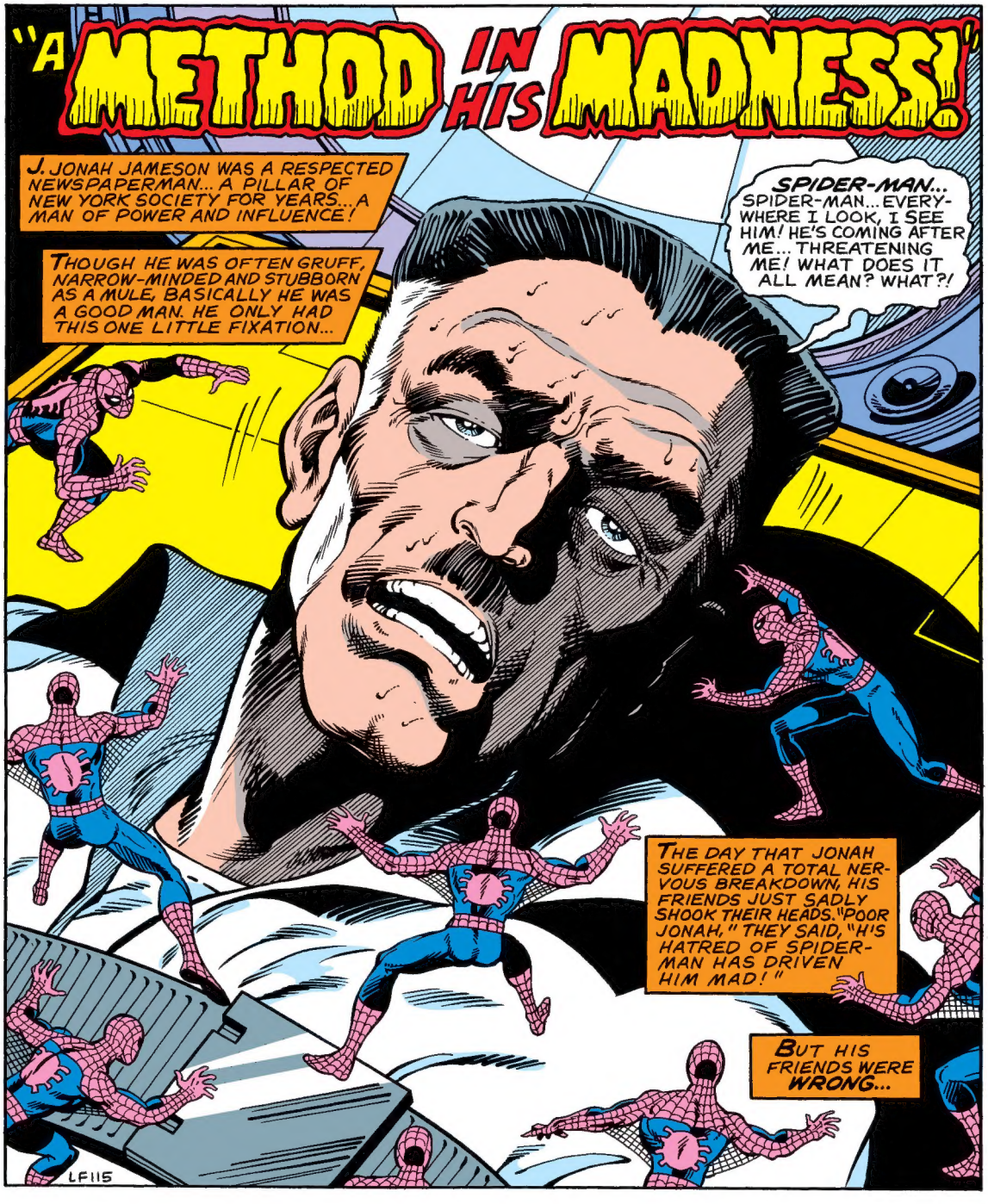
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
TM
PETER PARKER GOES WILD!
Milgrom

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers... and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

ROGER STERN WRITER | JOHN BYRNE & GENE DAY ARTISTS | DIANA ALBERS, LETTERER | GEORGE ROUSSOS, COLORIST | DENNIS O'NEIL, EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER, ED-IN-CHIEF



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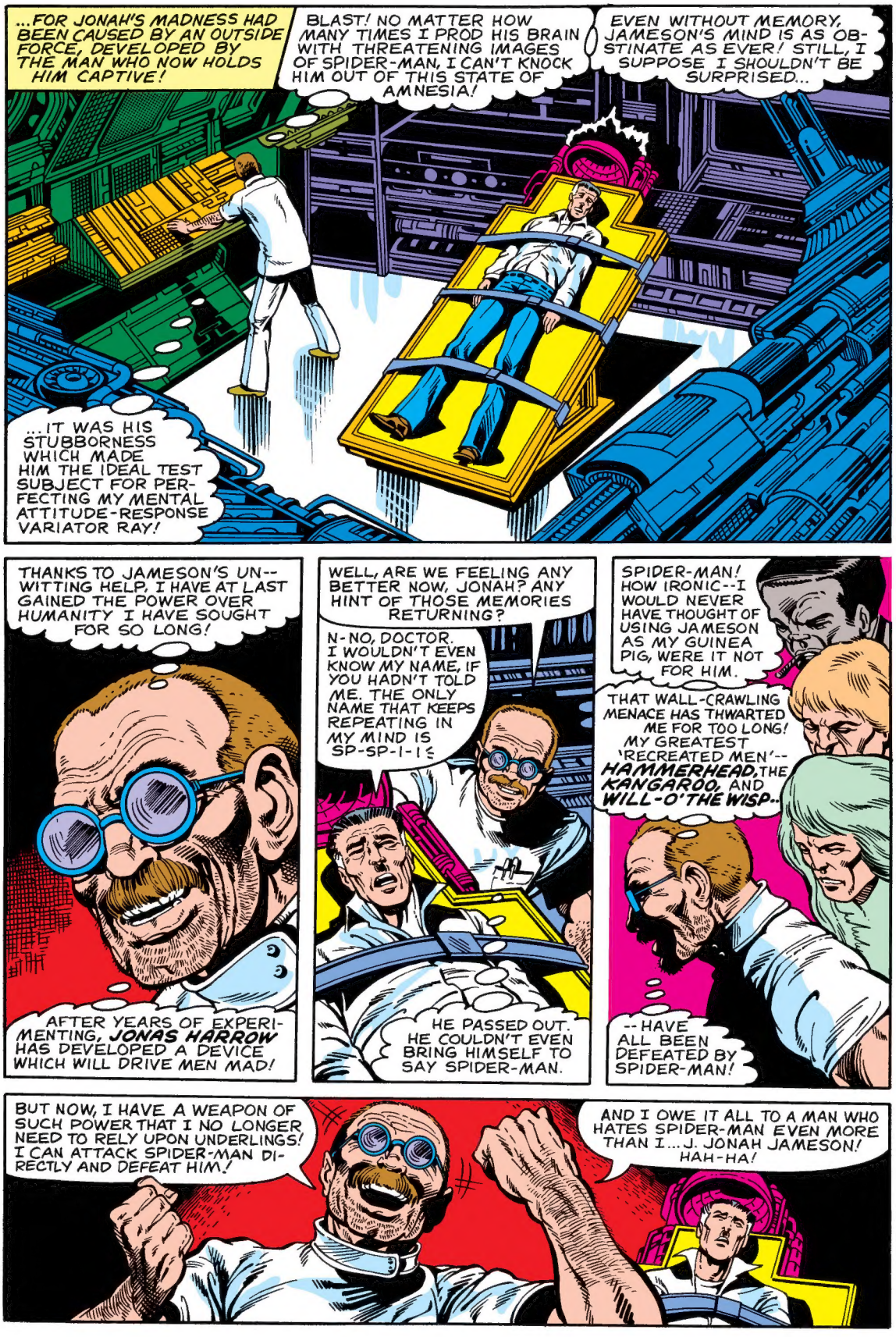
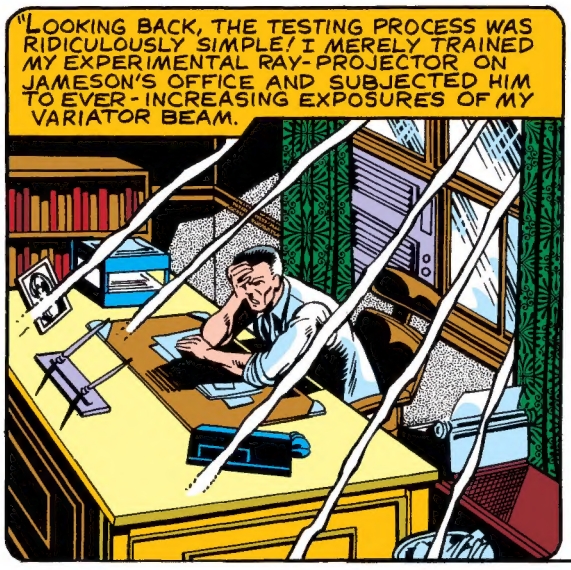
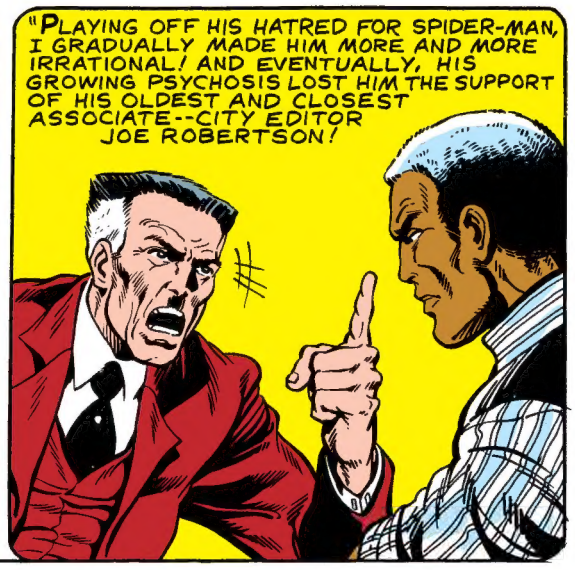

...FOR JONAH'S MADNESS HAD BEEN CAUSED BY AN OUTSIDE FORCE, DEVELOPED BY THE MAN WHO NOW HOLDS HIM CAPTIVE!
BLAST! NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I PROD HIS BRAIN WITH THREATENING IMAGES OF SPIDER-MAN, I CAN'T KNOCK HIM OUT OF THIS STATE OF AMNESIA!
EVEN WITHOUT MEMORY, JAMESON'S MIND IS AS OBSTINATE AS EVER! STILL, I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED...
...IT WAS HIS STUBBORNESS WHICH MADE HIM THE IDEAL TEST SUBJECT FOR PERFECTING MY MENTAL ATTITUDE-RESPONSE VARIATOR RAY!
THANKS TO JAMESON'S UNWITTING HELP, I HAVE AT LAST GAINED THE POWER OVER HUMANITY I HAVE SOUGHT FOR SO LONG!
AFTER YEARS OF EXPERIMENTING, JONAS HARROW HAS DEVELOPED A DEVICE WHICH WILL DRIVE MEN MAD!
WELL, ARE WE FEELING ANY BETTER NOW, JONAH? ANY HINT OF THOSE MEMORIES RETURNING?
N-NO, DOCTOR. I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW MY NAME, IF YOU HADN'T TOLD ME. THE ONLY NAME THAT KEEPS REPEATING IN MY MIND IS SP-SP-I-I-I
HE PASSED OUT. HE COULDN'T EVEN BRING HIMSELF TO SAY SPIDER-MAN.
SPIDER-MAN! HOW IRONIC--I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT OF USING JAMESON AS MY GUINEA PIG, WERE IT NOT FOR HIM.
THAT WALL-CRAWLING MENACE HAS THWARTED ME FOR TOO LONG! MY GREATEST 'RECREATED MEN'--HAMMERHEAD, THE KANGAROO, AND WILL-O'THE WISP--
--HAVE ALL BEEN DEFEATED BY SPIDER-MAN!
BUT NOW, I HAVE A WEAPON OF SUCH POWER THAT I NO LONGER NEED TO RELY UPON UNDERLINGS! I CAN ATTACK SPIDER-MAN DIRECTLY AND DEFEAT HIM!
AND I OWE IT ALL TO A MAN WHO HATES SPIDER-MAN EVEN MORE THAN I... J. JONAH JAMESON! HAH-HA!

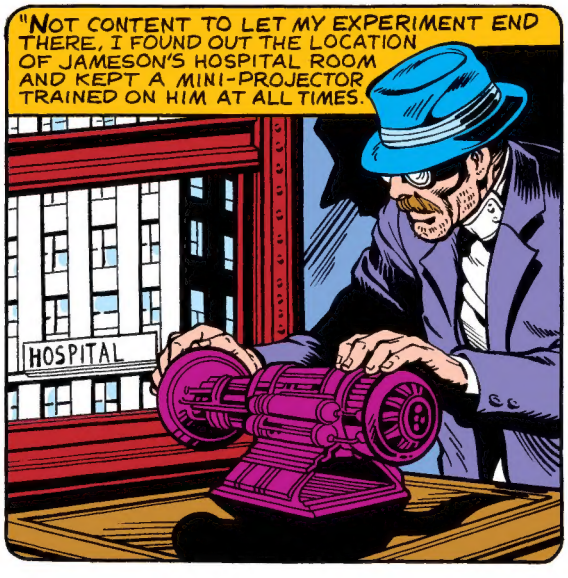

"LOOKING BACK, THE TESTING PROCESS WAS RIDICULOUSLY SIMPLE! I MERELY TRAINED MY EXPERIMENTAL RAY-PROJECTOR ON JAMESON'S OFFICE AND SUBJECTED HIM TO EVER-INCREASING EXPOSURES OF MY VARIATOR BEAM.

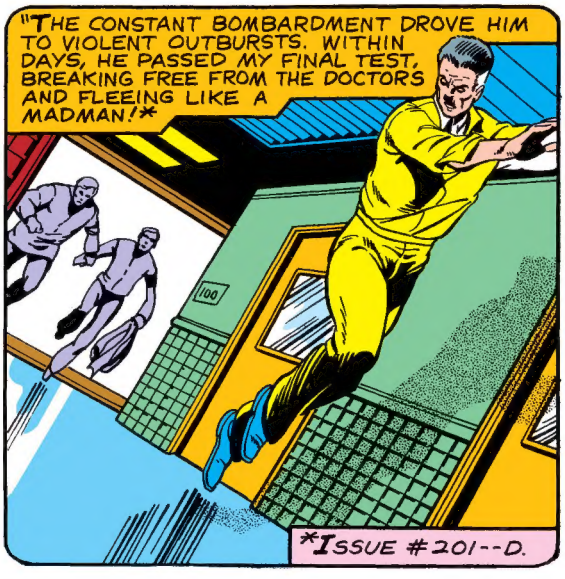

"PLAYING OFF HIS HATRED FOR SPIDER-MAN, I GRADUALLY MADE HIM MORE AND MORE IRRATIONAL! AND EVENTUALLY, HIS GROWING PSYCHOSIS LOST HIM THE SUPPORT OF HIS OLDEST AND CLOSEST ASSOCIATE--CITY EDITOR JOE ROBERTSON!

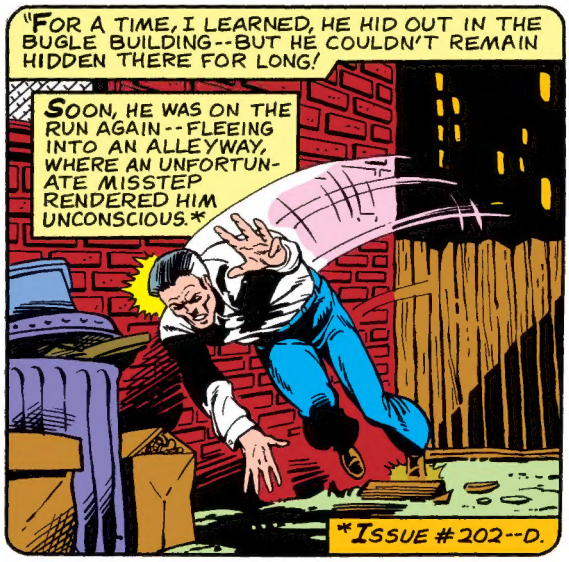
"ROBERTSON'S RESIGNATION* OF COURSE, MADE JAMESON'S MENTAL STATE ALL THE EASIER TO MANIPULATE!
*ISSUE #196--D.

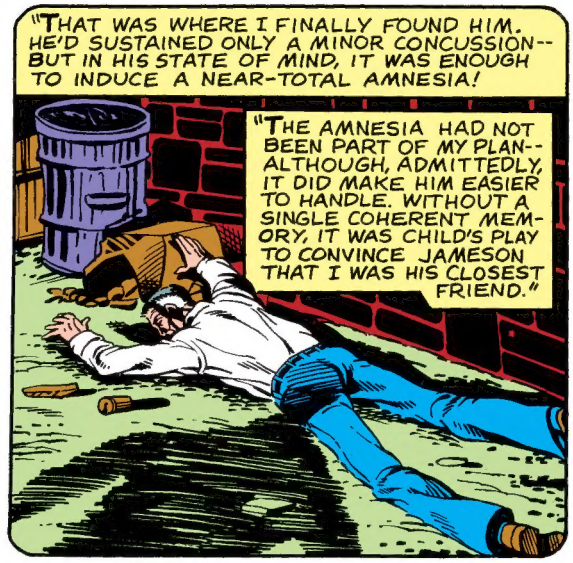
"BEFORE LONG, I HAD TURNED A LEVEL-HEADED PUBLISHER INTO A RAVING PARANOID! EVEN THE WOMAN DEAREST TO HIM--DR. MARLA MADISON--WAS UNABLE TO REASON WITH HIM!

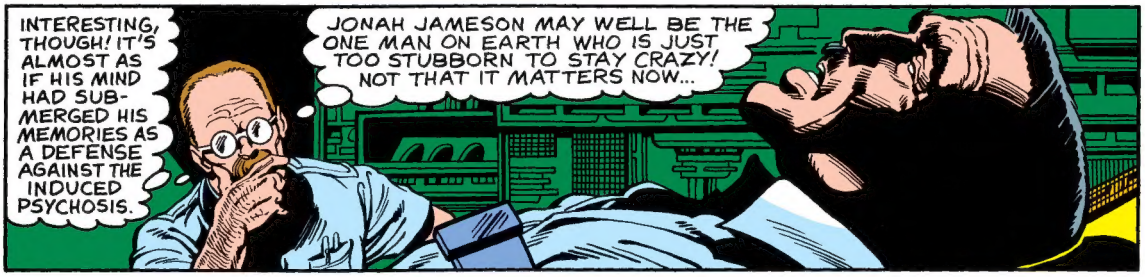
"THE DECISION OF THE BUGLE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO REPLACE JAMESON WAS THE LAST STRAW--HE SUFFERED A TOTAL NERVOUS COLLAPSE!*
*ISSUE #198--D.

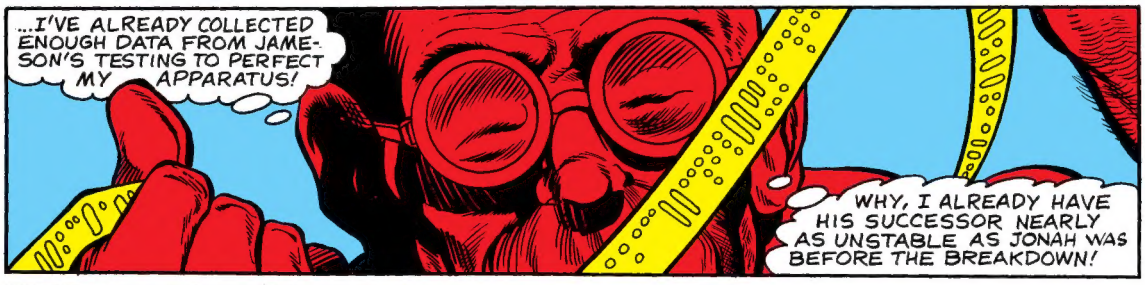

"NOT CONTENT TO LET MY EXPERIMENT END THERE, I FOUND OUT THE LOCATION OF JAMESON'S HOSPITAL ROOM AND KEPT A MINI-PROJECTOR TRAINED ON HIM AT ALL TIMES.
HOSPITAL

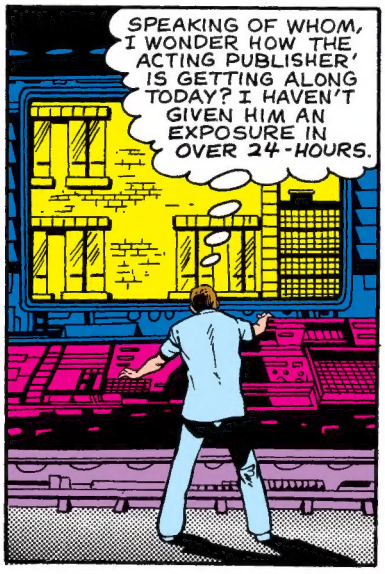

"THE CONSTANT BOMBARDMENT DROVE HIM TO VIOLENT OUTBURSTS. WITHIN DAYS, HE PASSED MY FINAL TEST, BREAKING FREE FROM THE DOCTORS AND FLEEING LIKE A MADMAN!*
*ISSUE #201--D.

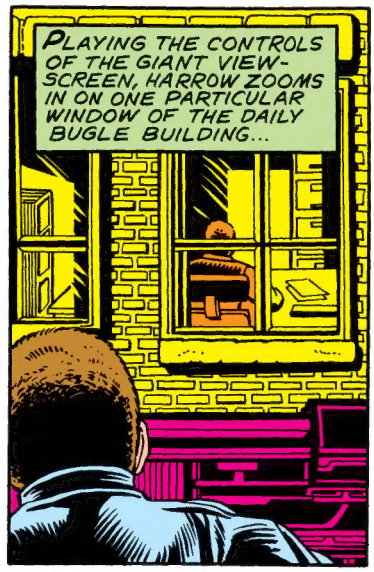

"FOR A TIME, I LEARNED, HE HID OUT IN THE BUGLE BUILDING--BUT HE COULDN'T REMAIN HIDDEN THERE FOR LONG!
SOON, HE WAS ON THE RUN AGAIN--FLEEING INTO AN ALLEYWAY, WHERE AN UNFORTUNATE MISSTEP RENDERED HIM UNCONSCIOUS.*
*ISSUE #202--D.

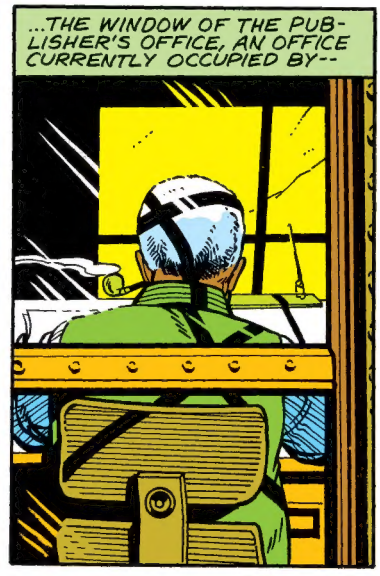

"THAT WAS WHERE I FINALLY FOUND HIM. HE'D SUSTAINED ONLY A MINOR CONCUSSION--BUT IN HIS STATE OF MIND, IT WAS ENOUGH TO INDUCE A NEAR-TOTAL AMNESIA!
"THE AMNESIA HAD NOT BEEN PART OF MY PLAN--ALTHOUGH, ADMITTEDLY, IT DID MAKE HIM EASIER TO HANDLE. WITHOUT A SINGLE COHERENT MEMORY, IT WAS CHILD'S PLAY TO CONVINCE JAMESON THAT I WAS HIS CLOSEST FRIEND."

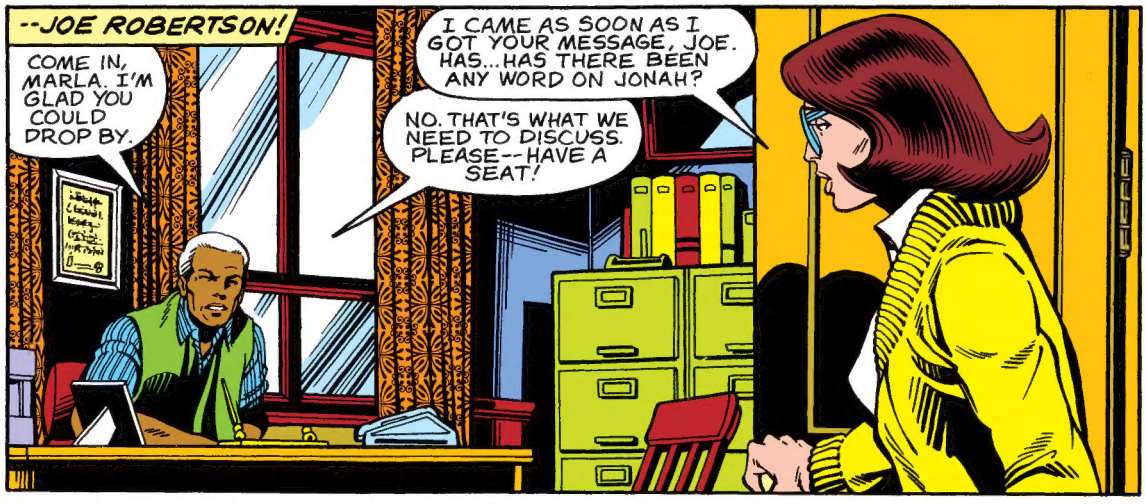

INTERESTING, THOUGH! IT'S ALMOST AS IF HIS MIND HAD SUBMERGED HIS MEMORIES AS A DEFENSE AGAINST THE INDUCED PSYCHOSIS.
JONAH JAMESON MAY WELL BE THE ONE MAN ON EARTH WHO IS JUST TOO STUBBORN TO STAY CRAZY! NOT THAT IT MATTERS NOW...

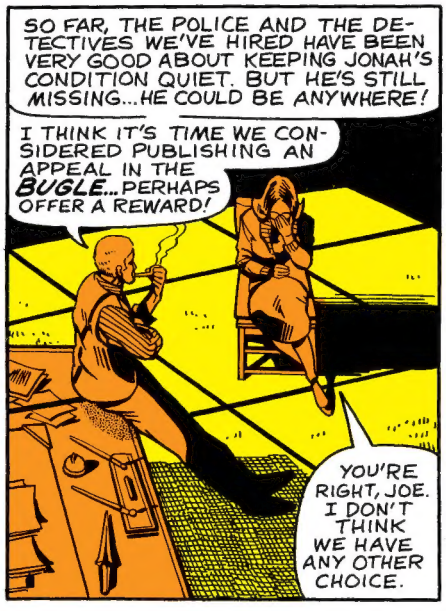

...I'VE ALREADY COLLECTED ENOUGH DATA FROM JAMESON'S TESTING TO PERFECT MY APPARATUS!
WHY, I ALREADY HAVE HIS SUCCESSOR NEARLY AS UNSTABLE AS JONAH WAS BEFORE THE BREAKDOWN!

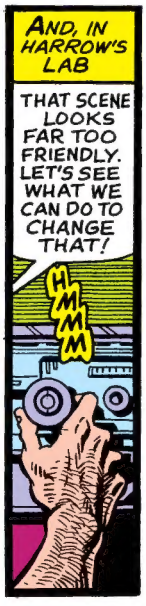

SPEAKING OF WHOM, I WONDER HOW THE ACTING PUBLISHER' IS GETTING ALONG TODAY? I HAVEN'T GIVEN HIM AN EXPOSURE IN OVER 24-HOURS.


PLAYING THE CONTROLS OF THE GIANT VIEW-SCREEN, HARROW ZOOMS IN ON ONE PARTICULAR WINDOW OF THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING...

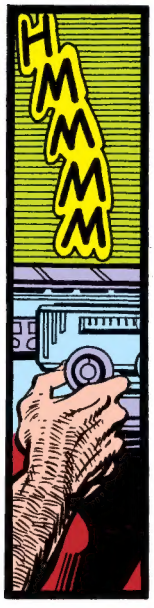

...THE WINDOW OF THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE, AN OFFICE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY--


--JOE ROBERTSON!
COME IN, MARLA. I'M GLAD YOU COULD DROP BY.
I CAME AS SOON AS I GOT YOUR MESSAGE, JOE. HAS...HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD ON JONAH?
NO. THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DISCUSS. PLEASE--HAVE A SEAT!

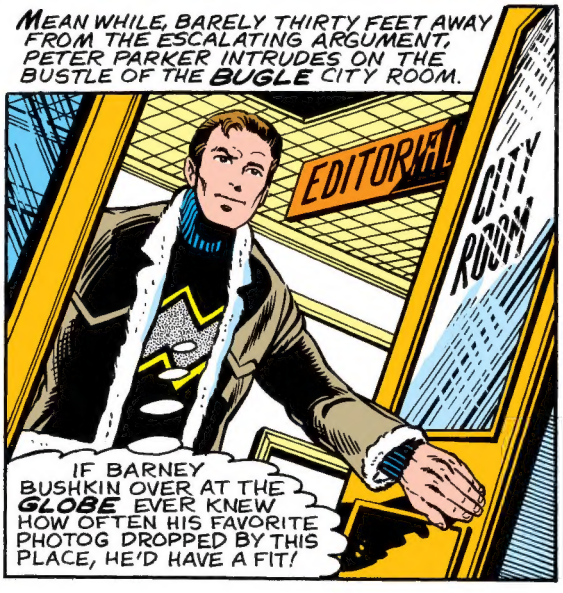

SO FAR, THE POLICE AND THE DETECTIVES WE'VE HIRED HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD ABOUT KEEPING JONAH'S CONDITION QUIET. BUT HE'S STILL MISSING...HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
I THINK IT'S TIME WE CONSIDERED PUBLISHING AN APPEAL IN THE BUGLE...PERHAPS OFFER A REWARD!
YOU'RE RIGHT, JOE. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE.

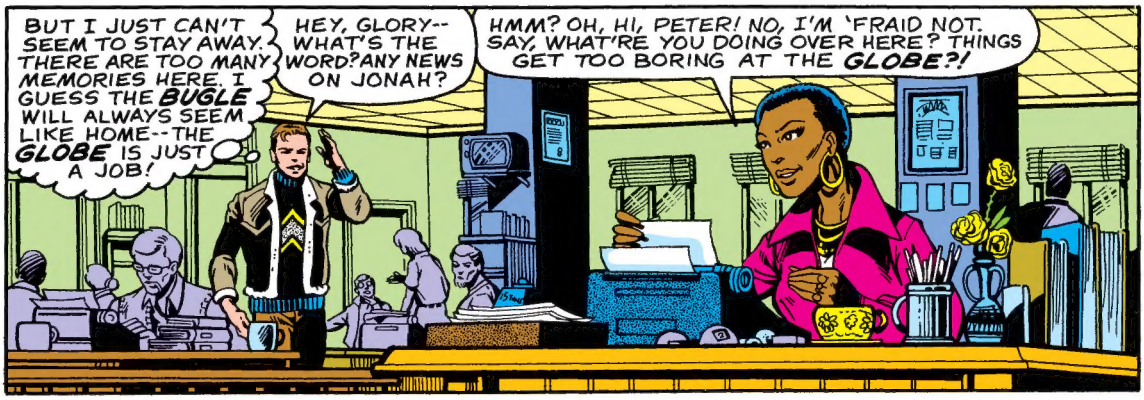

AND, IN HARROW'S LAB
THAT SCENE LOOKS FAR TOO FRIENDLY. LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO CHANGE THAT!
HMMMM

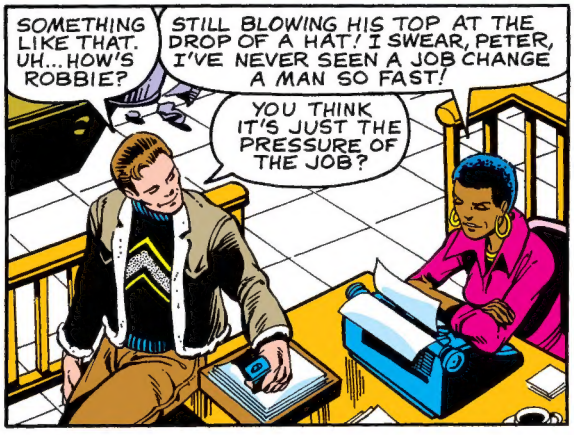
OF COURSE, I'M RIGHT! WHO DO YOU THINK HAS REALLY BEEN RUNNING THE BUGLE FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS?
SO, IT FINALLY COMES OUT! YOU DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT JONAH!

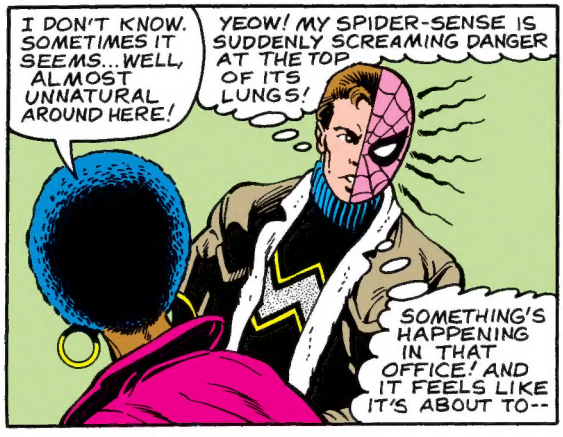

HMMMM

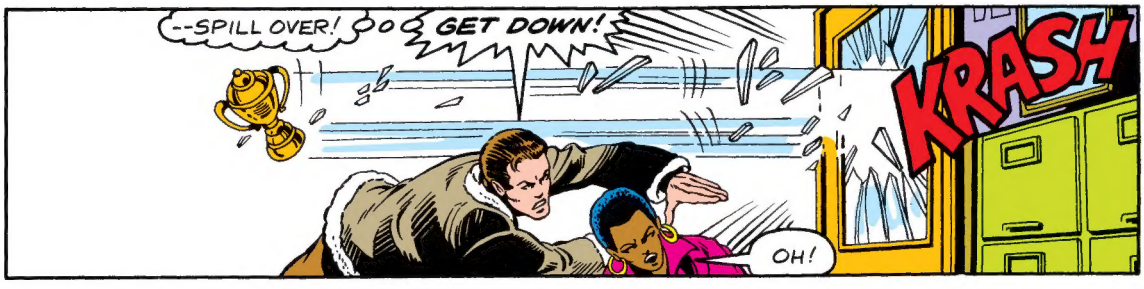
OH, AND I SUPPOSE YOU DO? COME OFF IT, WOMAN--IT'S JONAH'S MONEY THAT KEEPS YOU AROUND!
YOU DARE SAY THAT TO ME, YOU PIG? WHY, I OUGHT TO CRAM THAT SMELLY PIPE DOWN YOUR THROAT!


MEANWHILE, BARELY THIRTY FEET AWAY FROM THE ESCALATING ARGUMENT, PETER PARKER INTRUDES ON THE BUSTLE OF THE BUGLE CITY ROOM.
EDITORIAL
CITY ROOM
IF BARNEY BUSHKIN OVER AT THE GLOBE EVER KNEW HOW OFTEN HIS FAVORITE PHOTOG DROPPED BY THIS PLACE, HE'D HAVE A FIT!


BUT I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO STAY AWAY. THERE ARE TOO MANY MEMORIES HERE. I GUESS THE BUGLE WILL ALWAYS SEEM LIKE HOME--THE GLOBE IS JUST A JOB!
HEY, GLORY--WHAT'S THE WORD? ANY NEWS ON JONAH?
HMM? OH, HI, PETER! NO, I'M 'FRAID NOT. SAY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING OVER HERE? THINGS GET TOO BORING AT THE GLOBE?!


SOMETHING LIKE THAT. UH...HOW'S ROBBIE?
STILL BLOWING HIS TOP AT THE DROP OF A HAT! I SWEAR, PETER, I'VE NEVER SEEN A JOB CHANGE A MAN SO FAST!
YOU THINK IT'S JUST THE PRESSURE OF THE JOB?

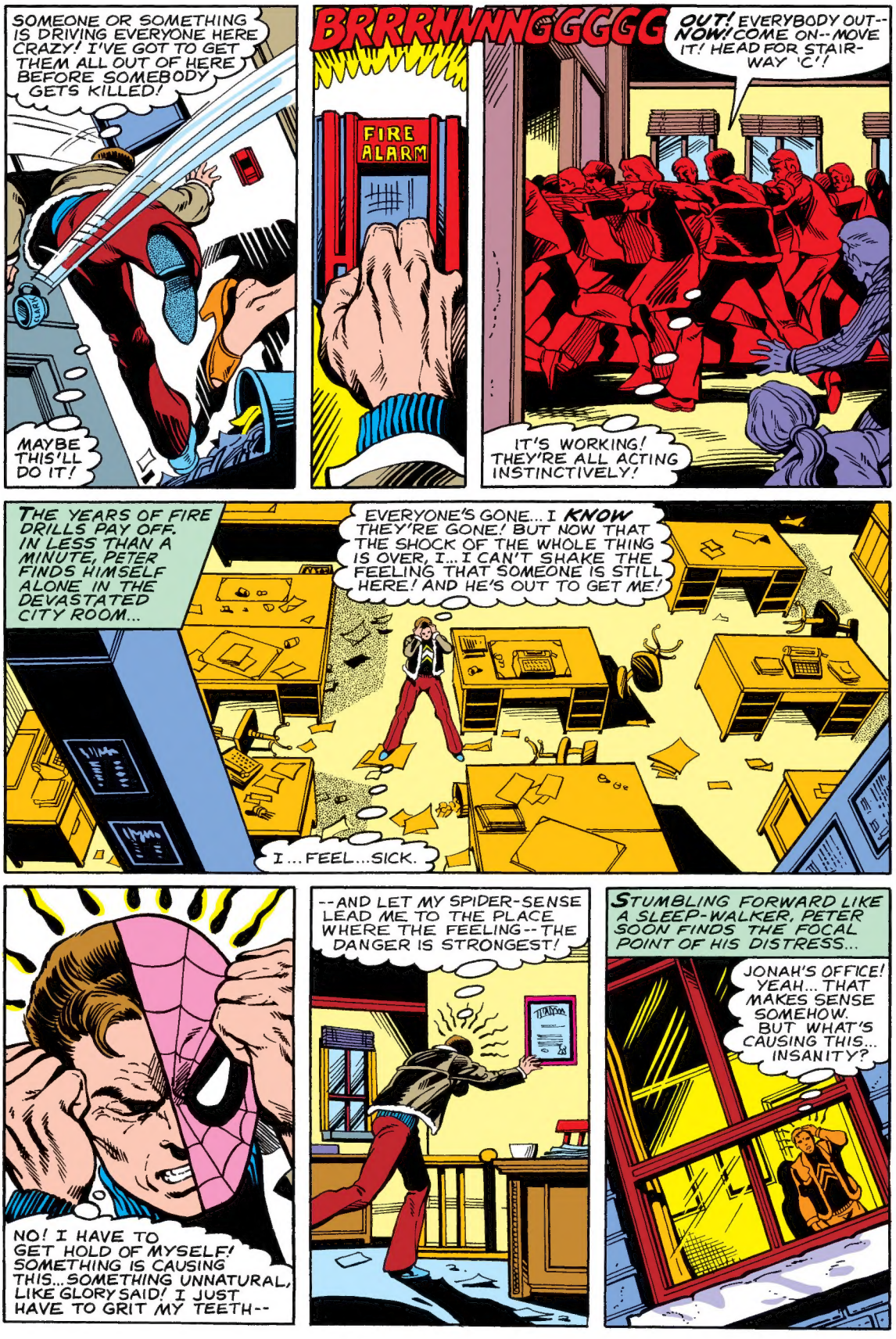

I DON'T KNOW. SOMETIMES IT SEEMS...WELL, ALMOST UNNATURAL AROUND HERE!
YEOW! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS SUDDENLY SCREAMING DANGER AT THE TOP OF ITS LUNGS!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING IN THAT OFFICE! AND IT FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO--


--SPILL OVER!
GET DOWN!
KRASH
OH!

LEAPING OVER THE TERRIFIED GLORY GRANT, PETER THROWS OPEN THE DOOR TO THE INNER OFFICE, ONLY TO FIND...
GET BACK! KEEP AWAY FROM ME, OR I'LL CUT YOU!
WOMAN, YOU AIN'T CUTTIN' NOBODY!

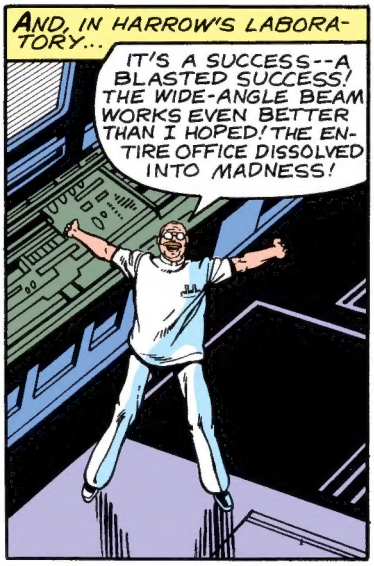
ROBBIE...DR. MADISON...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HAVE YOU BOTH GONE CRAZY?
STAY OUT OF THIS, PARKER! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU STUPID PUNK!

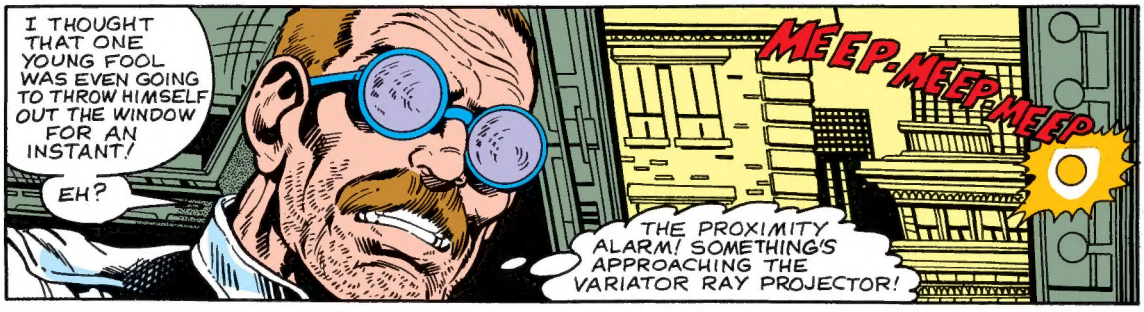
HMMMM
FOR ONLY A SECOND DOES PETER HOLD THE FORMER FRIENDS BACK. AND THEN...
SHUT UP! SHUT UP, BOTH OF YOU! I DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS--!
WHUUUPH!
AHHK!
OH, MY GOD! WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
WHAT CAME OVER ME? IT WAS LIKE EVERY BIT OF SELF-CONTROL I EVER HAD JUST FLEW OUT THE WINDOW!
WITH MY SPIDER-STRENGTH, I'M LUCKY I DIDN'T KNOCK THEM THROUGH THE WALLS!
NOOOO!!
EH? THAT'S GLORY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
DASHING BACK INTO THE CITY ROOM, PETER SUDDENLY FREEZES IN HIS TRACKS, HIS MOUTH AGAPE AT THE SIGHT OF INSTANT MASS PSYCHOSIS!
NO MORE FILING! NO MORE!
WHY AM I WRITING THE SPORTS PAGE? I HATE SPORTS!!
THAT'S MY BY-LINE!
HELP ME!
NO-NO-NO NO-NO...

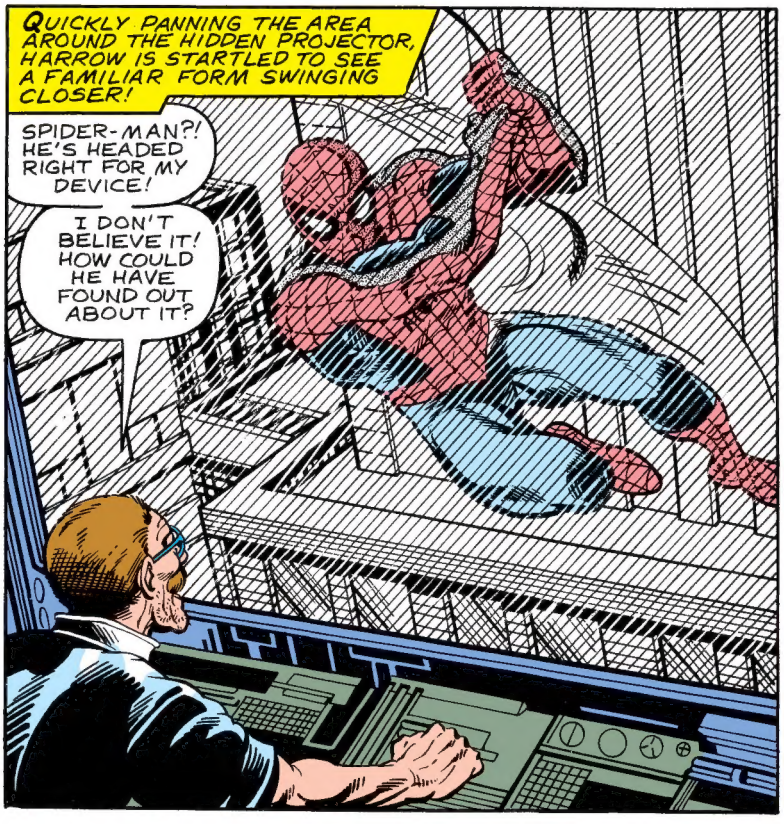

SOMEONE OR SOMETHING IS DRIVING EVERYONE HERE CRAZY! I'VE GOT TO GET THEM ALL OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS KILLED!
MAYBE THIS'LL DO IT!
BRRRNNNGGGGG
FIRE ALARM
OUT! EVERYBODY OUT-- NOW! COME ON--MOVE IT! HEAD FOR STAIR-WAY 'C'!
IT'S WORKING! THEY'RE ALL ACTING INSTINCTIVELY!
THE YEARS OF FIRE DRILLS PAY OFF. IN LESS THAN A MINUTE, PETER FINDS HIMSELF ALONE IN THE DEVASTATED CITY ROOM...
EVERYONE'S GONE... I KNOW THEY'RE GONE! BUT NOW THAT THE SHOCK OF THE WHOLE THING IS OVER, I... I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT SOMEONE IS STILL HERE! AND HE'S OUT TO GET ME!
I... FEEL... SICK.
NO! I HAVE TO GET HOLD OF MYSELF! SOMETHING IS CAUSING THIS... SOMETHING UNNATURAL, LIKE GLORY SAID! I JUST HAVE TO GRIT MY TEETH--
--AND LET MY SPIDER-SENSE LEAD ME TO THE PLACE WHERE THE FEELING--THE DANGER IS STRONGEST!
STUMBLING FORWARD LIKE A SLEEP-WALKER, PETER SOON FINDS THE FOCAL POINT OF HIS DISTRESS...
JONAH'S OFFICE! YEAH... THAT MAKES SENSE SOMEHOW. BUT WHAT'S CAUSING THIS... INSANITY?

THAT SICK FEELING IS STRONGEST HERE...ALMOST AS IF IT WERE COMING FROM...
MILLER
...THAT WATER TOWER.

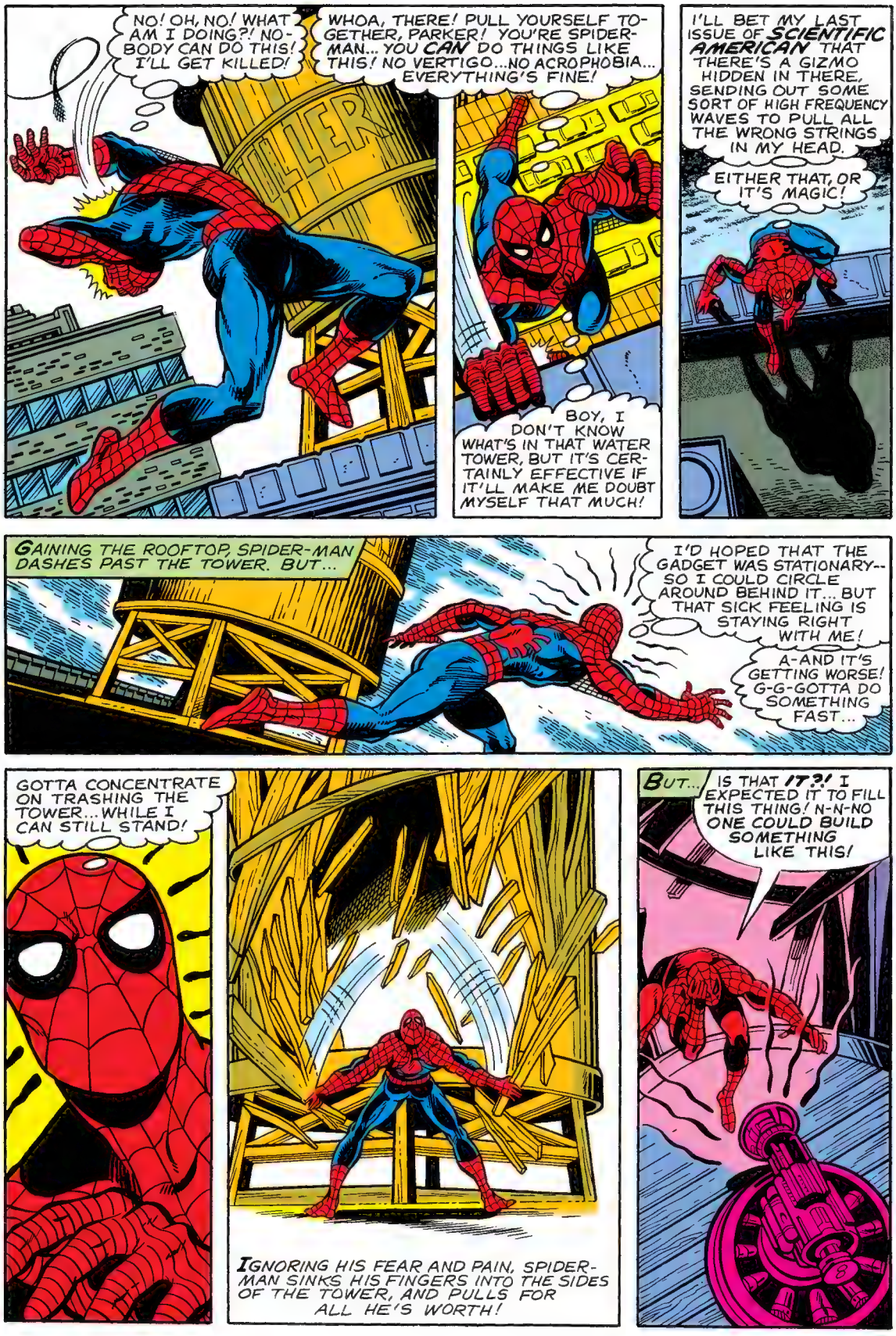
MUSTERING ALL OF HIS WILL, PETER LURCHES AWAY FROM THE WINDOW, BREAKING INTO A DESPERATE SPRINT FOR THE STAIRS.

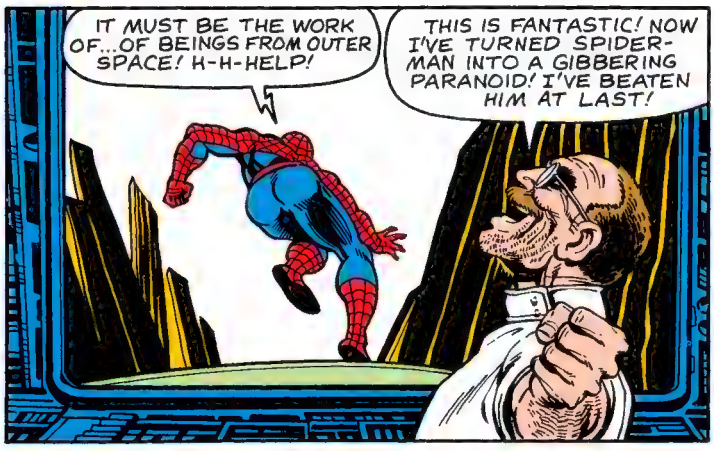

AND, IN HARROW'S LABORATORY...
IT'S A SUCCESS--A BLASTED SUCCESS! THE WIDE-ANGLE BEAM WORKS EVEN BETTER THAN I HOPED! THE ENTIRE OFFICE DISSOLVED INTO MADNESS!


I THOUGHT THAT ONE YOUNG FOOL WAS EVEN GOING TO THROW HIMSELF OUT THE WINDOW FOR AN INSTANT!
EH?
MEEP-MEEP-MEEP
THE PROXIMITY ALARM! SOMETHING'S APPROACHING THE VARIATOR RAY PROJECTOR!

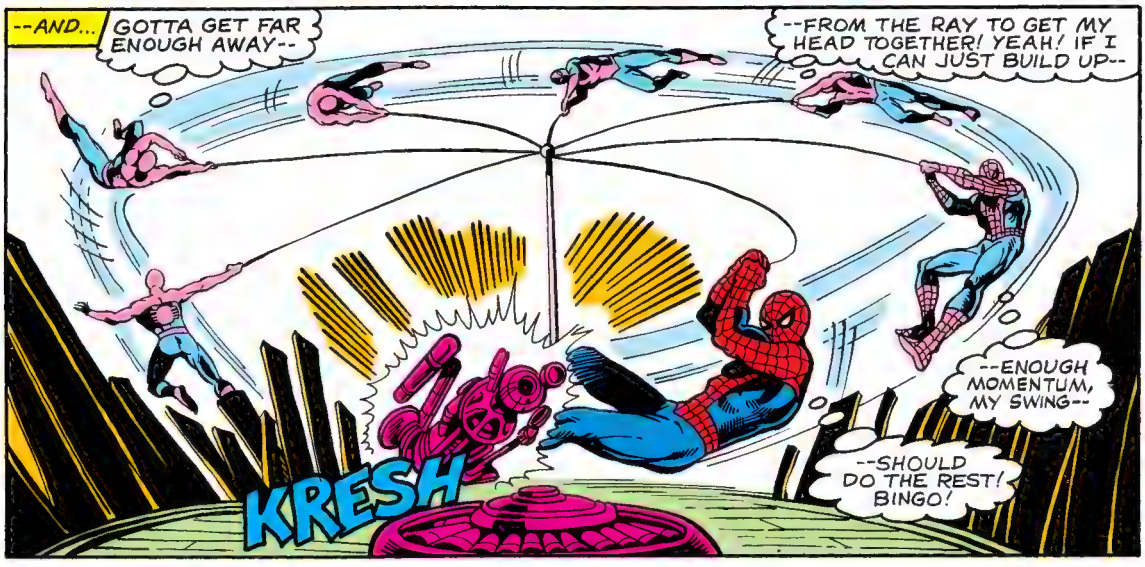

QUICKLY PANNING THE AREA AROUND THE HIDDEN PROJECTOR, HARROW IS STARTLED TO SEE A FAMILIAR FORM SWINGING CLOSER!
SPIDER-MAN?! HE'S HEADED RIGHT FOR MY DEVICE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HOW COULD HE HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT?

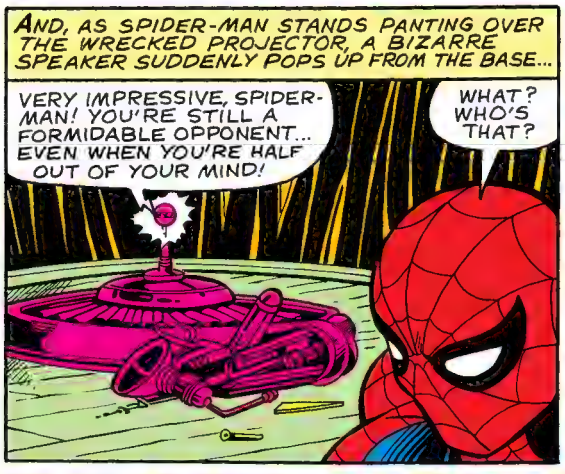
BAH! WHAT AM I WORRYING ABOUT? FOR ALL HIS POWER, HE IS ONLY HUMAN!
ALL I NEED DO IS FOCUS MY BEAM ON HIM--LIKE SO!
HMMMM

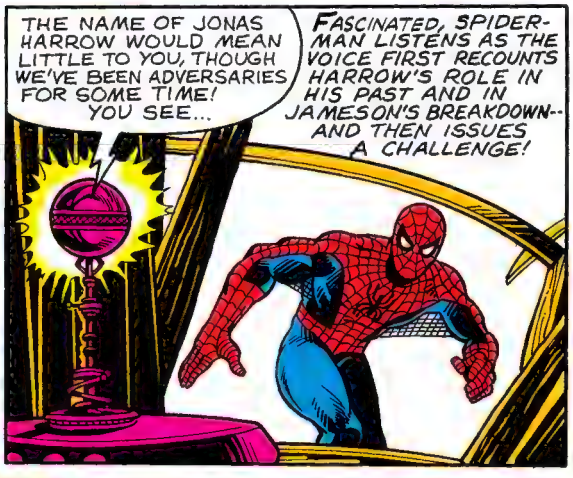

NO! OH, NO! WHAT AM I DOING?! NOBODY CAN DO THIS! I'LL GET KILLED!
WHOA, THERE! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, PARKER! YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN... YOU CAN DO THINGS LIKE THIS! NO VERTIGO...NO ACROPHOBIA... EVERYTHING'S FINE!
BOY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN THAT WATER TOWER, BUT IT'S CERTAINLY EFFECTIVE IF IT'LL MAKE ME DOUBT MYSELF THAT MUCH!
I'LL BET MY LAST ISSUE OF SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN THAT THERE'S A GIZMO HIDDEN IN THERE, SENDING OUT SOME SORT OF HIGH FREQUENCY WAVES TO PULL ALL THE WRONG STRINGS IN MY HEAD.
EITHER THAT, OR IT'S MAGIC!
GAINING THE ROOFTOP, SPIDER-MAN DASHES PAST THE TOWER. BUT...
I'D HOPED THAT THE GADGET WAS STATIONARY-- SO I COULD CIRCLE AROUND BEHIND IT... BUT THAT SICK FEELING IS STAYING RIGHT WITH ME!
A-AND IT'S GETTING WORSE! G-G-GOTTA DO SOMETHING FAST...
GOTTA CONCENTRATE ON TRASHING THE TOWER...WHILE I CAN STILL STAND!
IGNORING HIS FEAR AND PAIN, SPIDER-MAN SINKS HIS FINGERS INTO THE SIDES OF THE TOWER, AND PULLS FOR ALL HE'S WORTH!
BUT...
IS THAT IT?! I EXPECTED IT TO FILL THIS THING! N-N-NO ONE COULD BUILD SOMETHING LIKE THIS!


IT MUST BE THE WORK OF...OF BEINGS FROM OUTER SPACE! H-H-HELP!
THIS IS FANTASTIC! NOW I'VE TURNED SPIDER-MAN INTO A GIBBERING PARANOID! I'VE BEATEN HIM AT LAST!

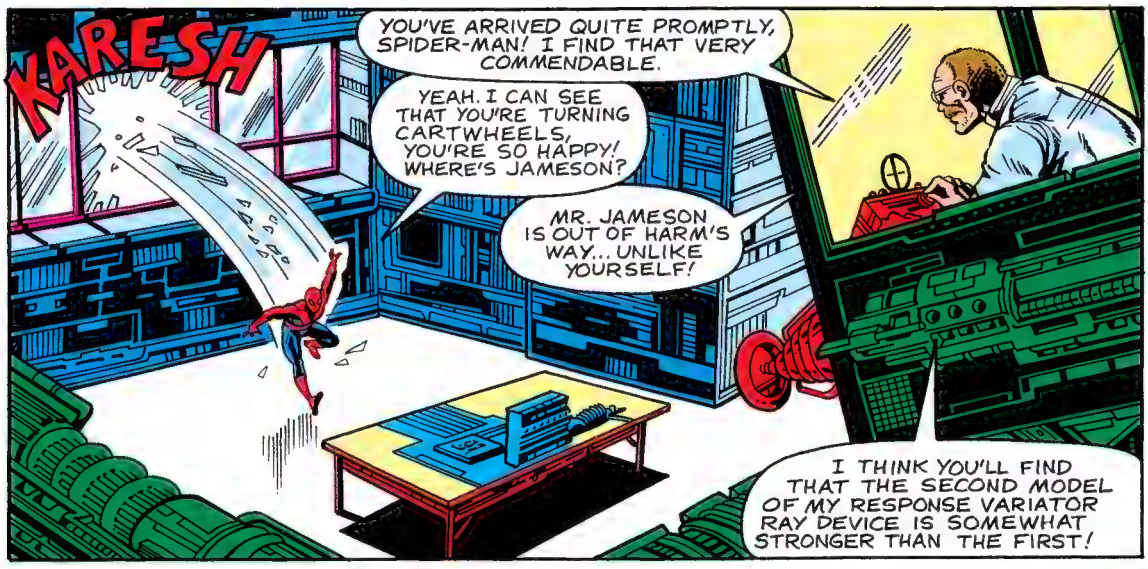
BUT, EVEN CAUGHT UP IN THE THROES OF IRRATIONAL FEAR, SPIDER-MAN MANAGES TO SHOOT A SLENDER WEB-LINE UP TO A NEARBY FLAG-POLE AS HE RUNS--


--AND...
GOTTA GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY--
--FROM THE RAY TO GET MY HEAD TOGETHER! YEAH! IF I CAN JUST BUILD UP--
--ENOUGH MOMENTUM, MY SWING--
--SHOULD DO THE REST! BINGO!
KRESH


AND, AS SPIDER-MAN STANDS PANTING OVER THE WRECKED PROJECTOR, A BIZARRE SPEAKER SUDDENLY POPS UP FROM THE BASE...
VERY IMPRESSIVE, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE STILL A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT... EVEN WHEN YOU'RE HALF OUT OF YOUR MIND!
WHAT? WHO'S THAT?


THE NAME OF JONAS HARROW WOULD MEAN LITTLE TO YOU, THOUGH WE'VE BEEN ADVERSARIES FOR SOME TIME! YOU SEE...
FASCINATED, SPIDER-MAN LISTENS AS THE VOICE FIRST RECOUNTS HARROW'S ROLE IN HIS PAST AND IN JAMESON'S BREAKDOWN-- AND THEN ISSUES A CHALLENGE!

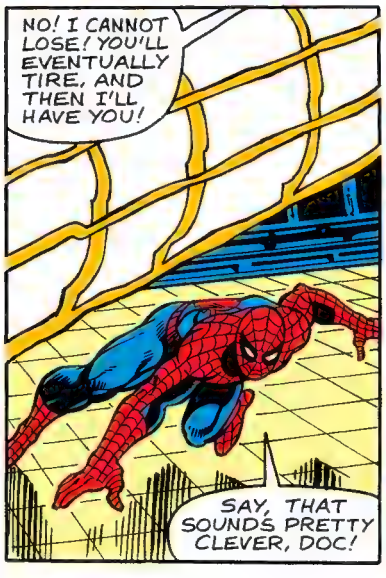
SHORTLY...
ECK
KUNG FU
TRUCTOR
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S CRAZIER... HARROW, FOR DARING ME TO MEET HIM ON HIS OWN GROUND... OR ME, FOR TAKING HIM UP ON IT!


KARESH
YOU'VE ARRIVED QUITE PROMPTLY, SPIDER-MAN! I FIND THAT VERY COMMENDABLE.
YEAH. I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE TURNING CARTWHEELS, YOU'RE SO HAPPY! WHERE'S JAMESON?
MR. JAMESON IS OUT OF HARM'S WAY... UNLIKE YOURSELF!
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT THE SECOND MODEL OF MY RESPONSE VARIATOR RAY DEVICE IS SOMEWHAT STRONGER THAN THE FIRST!

THE NEW, IMPROVED MODEL FRIES BRAINS FASTER, EH? WELL, EXCUSE ME IF I DON'T SHAKE DOWN TO THE TOES OF MY LI'L WEBBED BOOTIES--

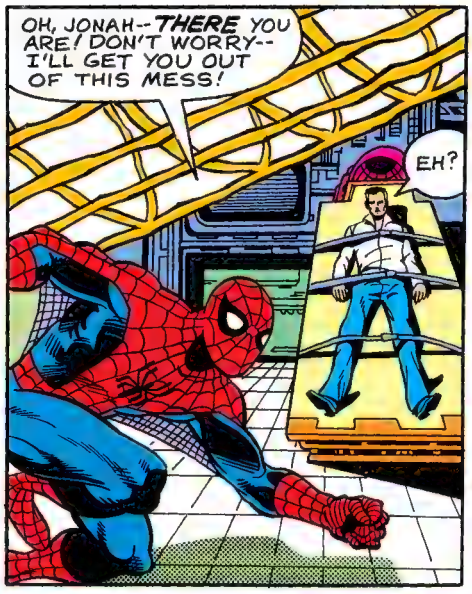
--BUT YOUR PSYCHO-RAY WON'T DO ANY GOOD IF IT DOESN'T HIT ME!

SEE WHAT I MEAN? IT WASN'T VERY SMART TO INVITE ME HERE, HARROW! IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I YANK YOU OUT OF YOUR ISOLATION BOOTH!


NO! I CANNOT LOSE! YOU'LL EVENTUALLY TIRE, AND THEN I'LL HAVE YOU!
SAY, THAT SOUNDS PRETTY CLEVER, DOC!

THE ONLY PROBLEM IS, I DON'T FEEL TIRED AT ALL! AS A MATTER OF FACT--

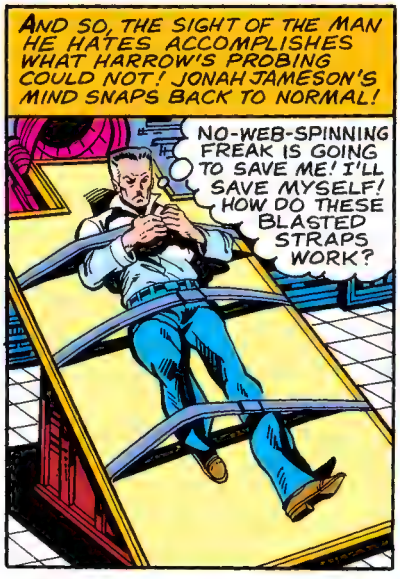
--I THINK I COULD DO THIS ALL DAY!
THAT'S THE NICE THING ABOUT HAVING THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER... YOU HAVE TERRIFIC ENDURANCE!

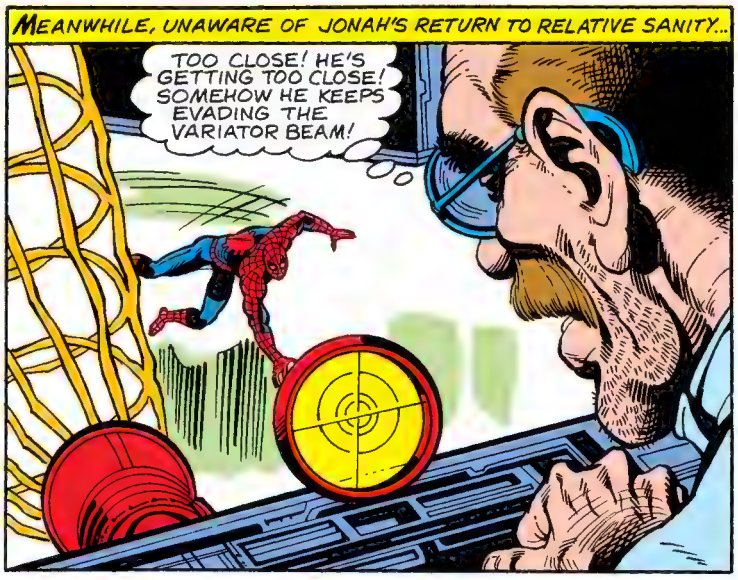

OH, JONAH--THERE YOU ARE! DON'T WORRY--I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS MESS!
EH?

SPIDER-MAN... ISN'T THREATENING ME? HE'S TRYING TO HELP ME?

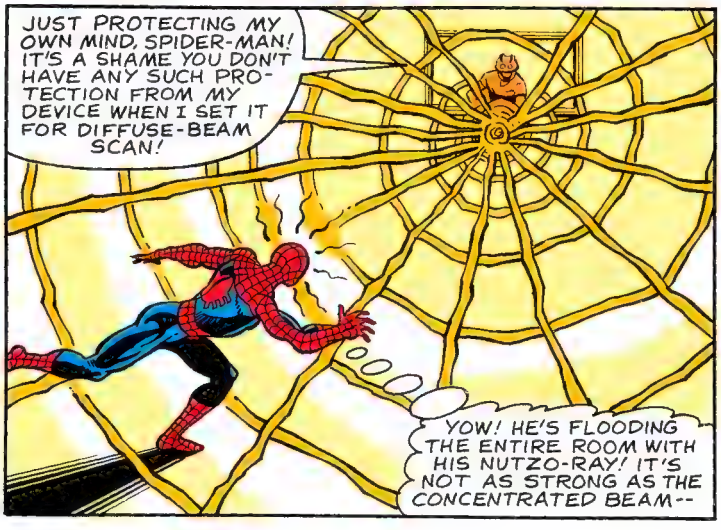
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SPIDER-MAN CAN'T BE HELPING ME!

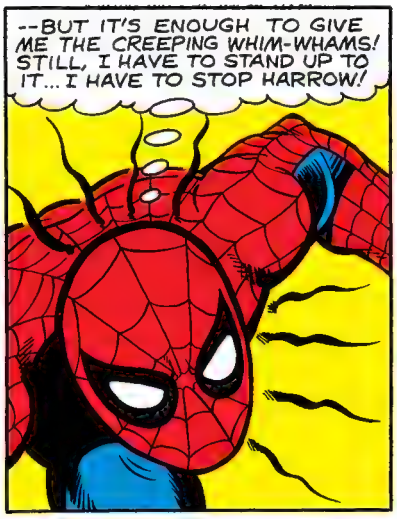
I... HATE... SPIDER-MAN!

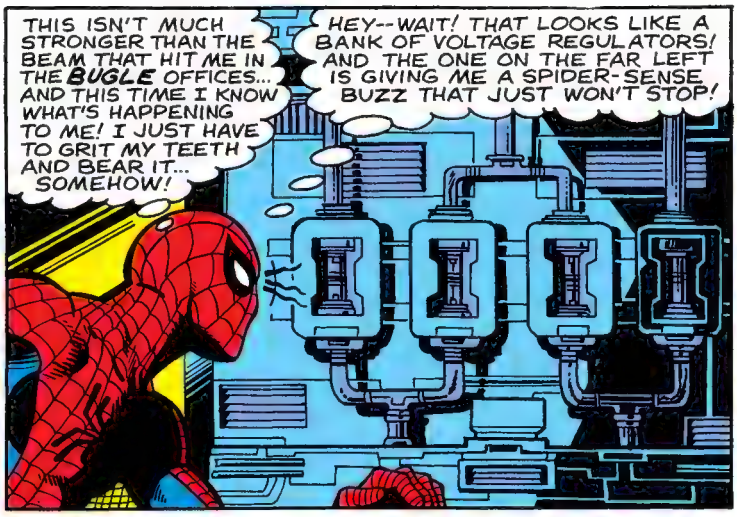

AND SO, THE SIGHT OF THE MAN HE HATES ACCOMPLISHES WHAT HARROW'S PROBING COULD NOT! JONAH JAMESON'S MIND SNAPS BACK TO NORMAL!
NO-WEB-SPINNING FREAK IS GOING TO SAVE ME! I'LL SAVE MYSELF! HOW DO THESE BLASTED STRAPS WORK?

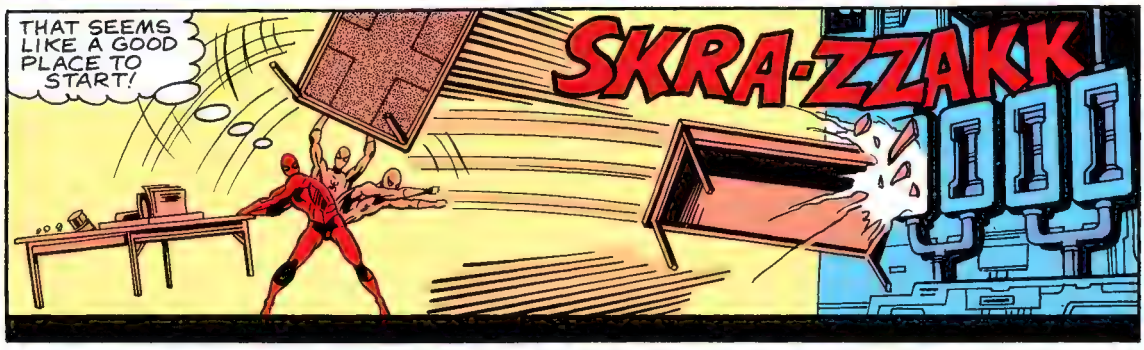

MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF JONAH'S RETURN TO RELATIVE SANITY...
TOO CLOSE! HE'S GETTING TOO CLOSE! SOMEHOW HE KEEPS EVADING THE VARIATOR BEAM!

HE'LL MAKE GOOD HIS THREAT TO CAPTURE ME, UNLESS I DO SOMETHING DRASTIC!
WHAT'S WITH THE THINKING CAP, DOC? TRYING TO COME UP WITH A BETTER IDEA?

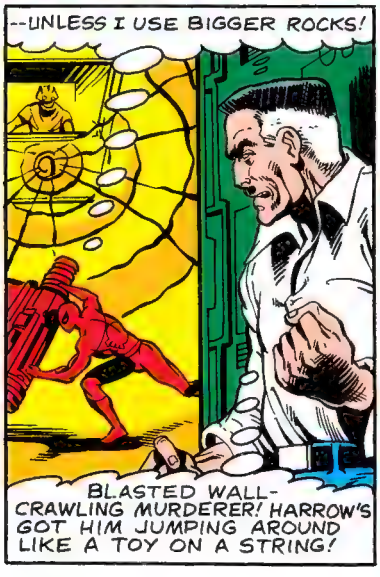

JUST PROTECTING MY OWN MIND, SPIDER-MAN! IT'S A SHAME YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SUCH PROTECTION FROM MY DEVICE WHEN I SET IT FOR DIFFUSE-BEAM SCAN!
YOW! HE'S FLOODING THE ENTIRE ROOM WITH HIS NUTZO-RAY! IT'S NOT AS STRONG AS THE CONCENTRATED BEAM--


--BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO GIVE ME THE CREEPING WHIM-WHAMS! STILL, I HAVE TO STAND UP TO IT... I HAVE TO STOP HARROW!

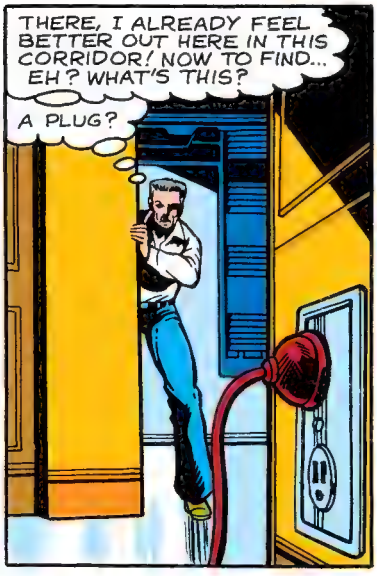

THIS ISN'T MUCH STRONGER THAN THE BEAM THAT HIT ME IN THE BUGLE OFFICES... AND THIS TIME I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME! I JUST HAVE TO GRIT MY TEETH AND BEAR IT... SOMEHOW!
HEY--WAIT! THAT LOOKS LIKE A BANK OF VOLTAGE REGULATORS! AND THE ONE ON THE FAR LEFT IS GIVING ME A SPIDER-SENSE BUZZ THAT JUST WON'T STOP!

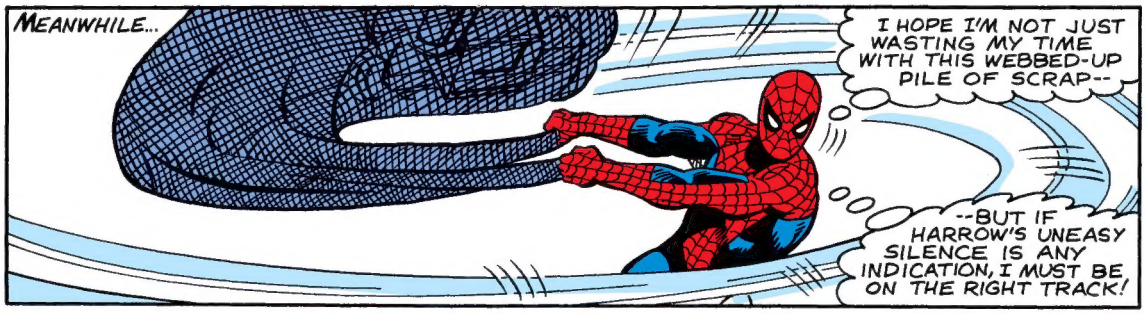

THAT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO START!
SKRA-ZZAKK

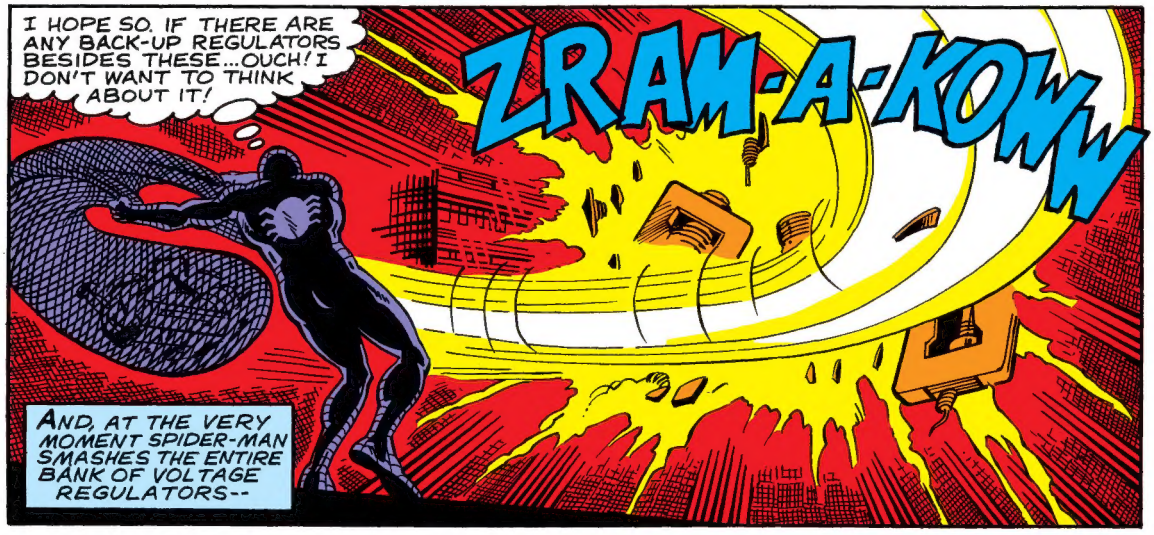
NO GOOD! ANOTHER ONE JUST PICKED UP THE POWER LOAD! THEY MUST BE SET TO SWITCH BACK AND FORTH IN SOME PRE-ARRANGED SEQUENCE.
THROWING ROCKS AT THEM WON'T DO ANY GOOD--

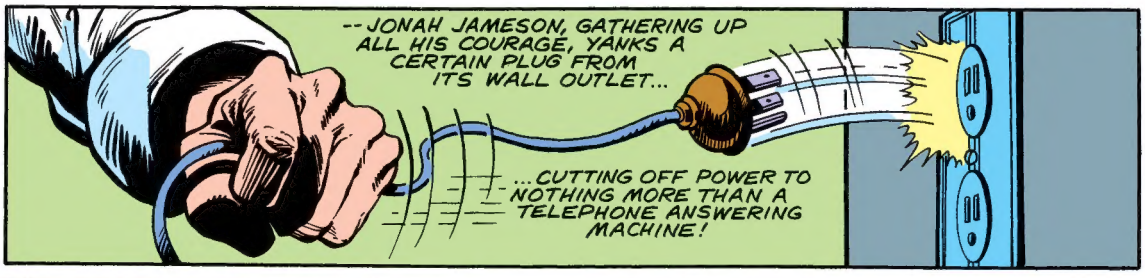

--UNLESS I USE BIGGER ROCKS!
BLASTED WALL-CRAWLING MURDERER! HARROW'S GOT HIM JUMPING AROUND LIKE A TOY ON A STRING!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE... THE LAST FEW DAYS SEEM LIKE A BLUR TO ME... BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ROOM MAKES MY HEAD HURT!
I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE--AND GET HELP!

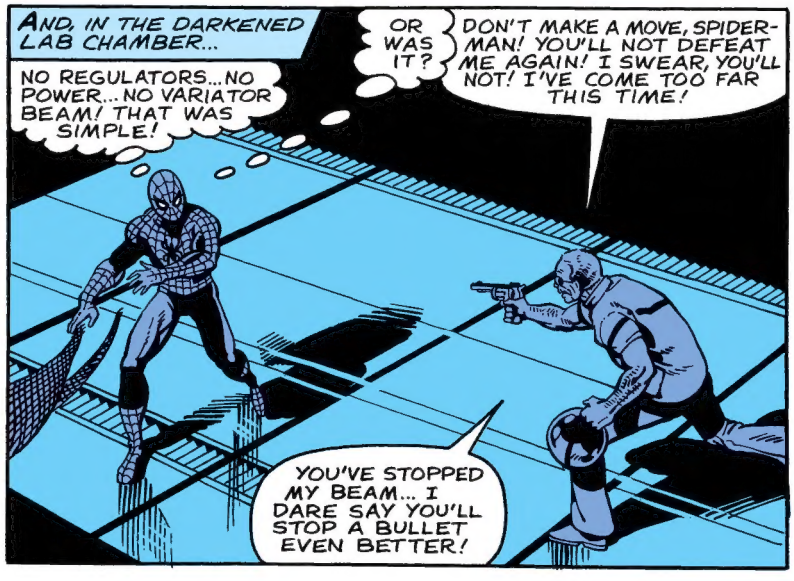

THERE, I ALREADY FEEL BETTER OUT HERE IN THIS CORRIDOR! NOW TO FIND... EH? WHAT'S THIS?
A PLUG?


MEANWHILE...
I HOPE I'M NOT JUST WASTING MY TIME WITH THIS WEBBED-UP PILE OF SCRAP--
--BUT IF HARROW'S UNEASY SILENCE IS ANY INDICATION, I MUST BE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

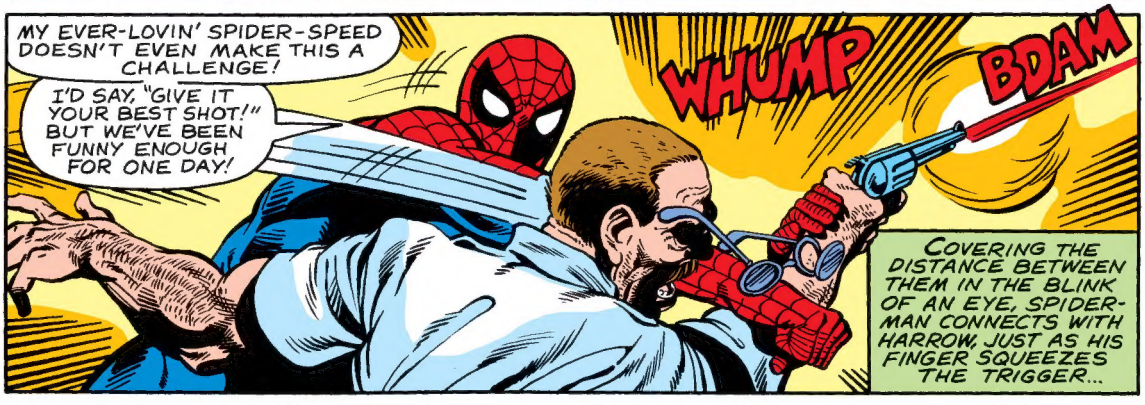

I HOPE SO. IF THERE ARE ANY BACK-UP REGULATORS BESIDES THESE...OUCH! I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT!
ZRAM-A-KOWW
AND, AT THE VERY MOMENT SPIDER-MAN SMASHES THE ENTIRE BANK OF VOLTAGE REGULATORS--


--JONAH JAMESON, GATHERING UP ALL HIS COURAGE, YANKS A CERTAIN PLUG FROM ITS WALL OUTLET...
...CUTTING OFF POWER TO NOTHING MORE THAN A TELEPHONE ANSWERING MACHINE!

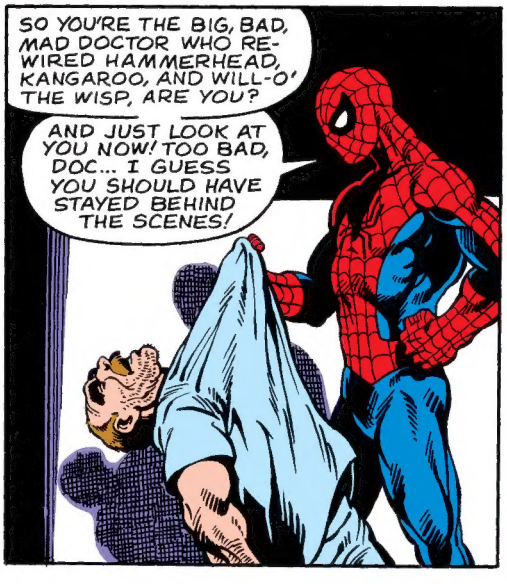
OF COURSE, NO ONE WILL EVER CONVINCE HIM OF THAT!
JUST AS I THOUGHT! EVERY LIGHT IN THE PLACE WENT OUT! HAH, WHO NEEDS "SUPER HEROES"?

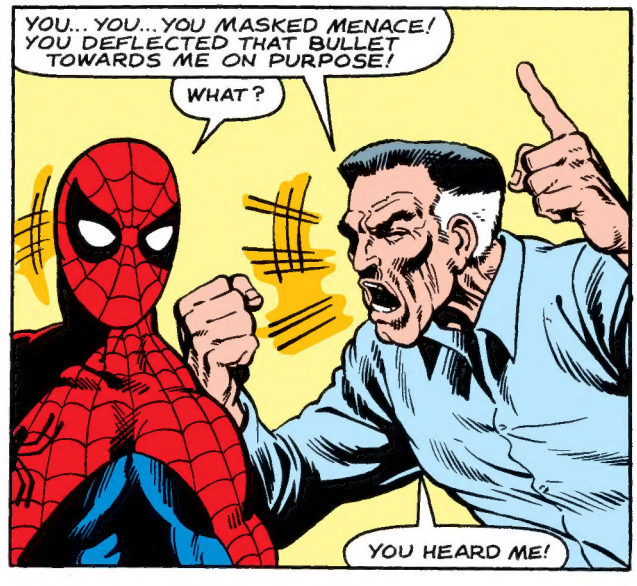

AND, IN THE DARKENED LAB CHAMBER...
NO REGULATORS...NO POWER...NO VARIATOR BEAM! THAT WAS SIMPLE!
OR WAS IT?
DON'T MAKE A MOVE, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'LL NOT DEFEAT ME AGAIN! I SWEAR, YOU'LL NOT! I'VE COME TOO FAR THIS TIME!
YOU'VE STOPPED MY BEAM... I DARE SAY YOU'LL STOP A BULLET EVEN BETTER!

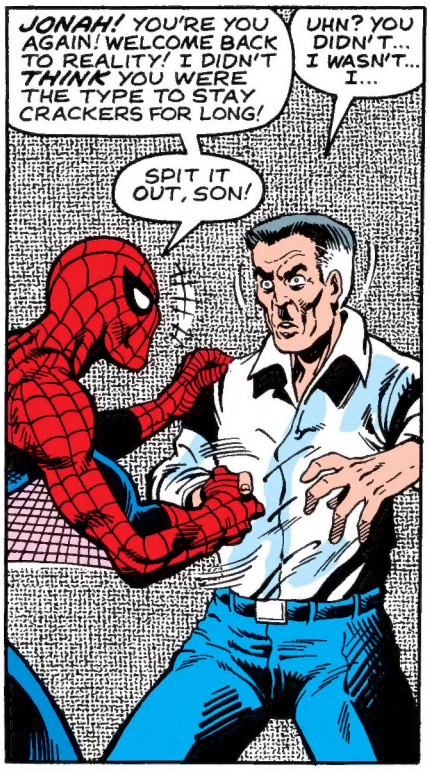
WHAT?! AW, COME ON, DOC! BE REAL! YOU'RE THREATENING ME WITH AN ORDINARY REVOLVER? ME?!
I'M WARNING YOU...DON'T TRY ANYTHING! YOU'RE NOT BULLETPROOF!
YEAH, BUT I'M NOT AN EASY TARGET, EITHER!

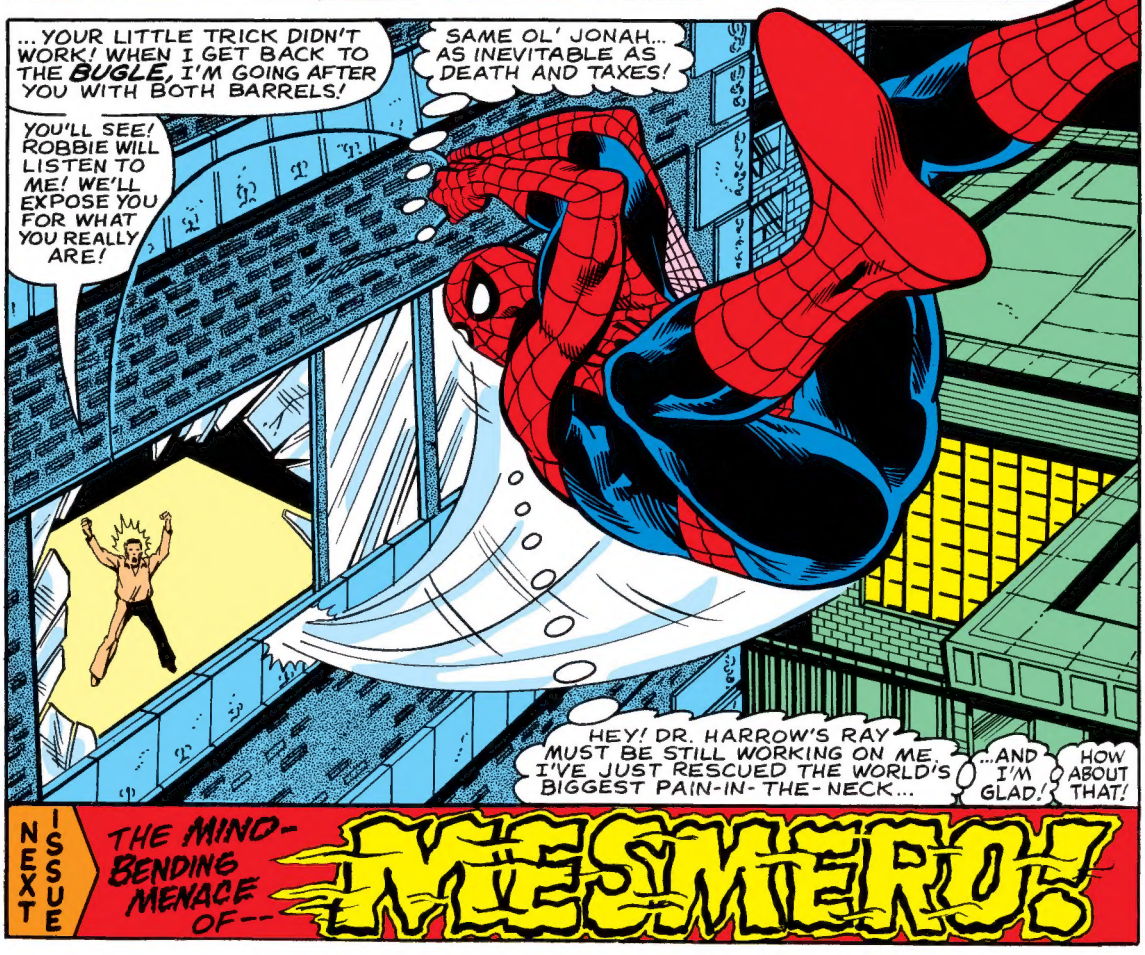

MY EVER-LOVIN' SPIDER-SPEED DOESN'T EVEN MAKE THIS A CHALLENGE!
I'D SAY, "GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT!" BUT WE'VE BEEN FUNNY ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY!
WHUMP
BDAM
COVERING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, SPIDER-MAN CONNECTS WITH HARROW, JUST AS HIS FINGER SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER...

... PRODUCING A NEAR MISS JUST ACROSS THE ROOM!
KTANG
GADFREY!


SO YOU'RE THE BIG, BAD, MAD DOCTOR WHO REWIRED HAMMERHEAD, KANGAROO, AND WILL-O' THE WISP, ARE YOU?
AND JUST LOOK AT YOU NOW! TOO BAD, DOC... I GUESS YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED BEHIND THE SCENES!


YOU... YOU... YOU MASKED MENACE! YOU DEFLECTED THAT BULLET TOWARDS ME ON PURPOSE!
WHAT?
YOU HEARD ME!





NEXT ISSUE

THE MIND-BENDING MENACE OF--

MESMERO!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200, without a doubt, was *the* best issue to date (and I've read them all)! It was a sheer masterpiece of human emotion. The depth of Parker's fury, the criminal mentality of the Burglar, the changeover from hunter to hunted, the irresistably intense desperation on all sides... I could go on all night!

And then, not least by any means, there was that moment of expectancy fulfilled. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for page 32. I knew there was no way the lady could have just faded out into oblivion and memory. Thank you for returning my all-time favorite comics character to me... AUNT MAY LIVES!

It was beautifully executed. I was expecting it all along... but I dreaded the possibility, however slight, that May Parker might actually be dead. You've totally redeemed yourselves in my eyes.

And it was a relief to see Mrs. Parker accepting Spider-Man as a hero at last. Considering the number of times he's saved her life, it was a bit unrealistic to maintain her obsessive fear of him. And the entire SPIDER-MAN supporting cast has never been so human as they were here.

So... what next? Old villain time? The Circus of Crime? A guy named Joe? The Rhino? The Vulture? The Gibbon? The Prowler?

Whatever the future holds, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200 was a prime example of psychological manipulation, showing just what can be done in such a traditionally straightforward, simple medium.

Steve Lowther
12 The Grove
Guinsborough, Cleveland
England

Aw, shucks, Steve! We were just doing our job, trying our best to entertain you, same as we have for two hundred some issues.

But, if you'll allow us to toot our own horn just a bit, we have to admit that we're more than a little pleased with the overwhelmingly favorable response to our bicentennial anniversary issue! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN usually gets a lot of mail, but the ol' postal pouch has never been this full! Hundreds upon hundreds of congratulations have come winging their way to 575 Madison Avenue... and they're still coming in, months later!

The sentiment is appreciated, people. But, truthfully, it is we who should thank you! It has been your support, your thoughtfulness, your caring that has made Marvel the world's greatest comics company and Spider-Man a household word around the world. We love you for it... and we promise that the first 200 issues were just the beginning!

Now, getting down to specifics, Steve... yes, some old villains (and some new) will be showing up soon, though not necessarily the ones you mentioned. As a matter of fact, Joe Smith is slated to return in CAPTAIN AMERICA #246, and both the Vulture and the Prowler should be appearing shortly in the pages of our sister magazine, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN! Watch for it! —R.S.

Dear People,

My God, I don't believe it! I actually liked AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200! In fact, I loved it! Congratulations! You've accomplished a most difficult task indeed.

You mad egotists may not believe this, but Spider-Man is not one of my favorite characters. Let me explain... Stan Lee has said that people would like to be someone like Spider-Man. I'm not so sure. If I ever became a super hero, and had a girl friend murdered before my eyes — as well as suffering countless identity crises — I wouldn't feel very heroic. I'm surprised that Spider-Man hasn't committed suicide! But I digress.

Spider-Man *is* a wonderful character, and I *do* like him. However, I think he's a bit overexposed, and he loses a lot of believability that way. If he was confined only to this magazine, perhaps I would like him a little more and wouldn't be turned off by the multiple soap operas every month.

You must admit, SPIDER-MAN is like a soap opera. But when Peter Parker is the only supporting character in the book, Spider-Man is at his best, as "The Spider and the Burglar" clearly shows. I think your supporting cast bogs the stories down — except, perhaps, for Aunt May and occasionally J. Jonah Jameson. I think that Spider-Man is quite interesting enough without a bunch of mindless idiots shuffling around all the time.

Anyway, issue #200 was an excellent adventure story, and that's definitely Spider-Man's forte. There was never a boring moment, and Keith Pollard's pencils seemed extraordinarily good. This was a story that would have done John Ford proud!

Well, I've said my piece. As for guessing which page Stan Lee wrote, I would have to say the last page. But if I'm wrong, it's probably page seven.

And before I forget, the Romita cover was much appreciated. But why not have Steve Ditko do a cover? He did co-create Spider-Man!

Randy Prinslow
665 Marino Drive North
Salem, OR 97303

Randy, nothing would make us happier than to have Steve do a SPIDER-MAN cover (or story, for that matter!). However, when Steve returned to Marvel, he specifically requested that he be assigned neither Spider-Man nor Dr. Strange, and we, of course, will honor his wishes.

(But if he ever changes his mind...)

On that matter of your guess... yes, Stan the Man did indeed script the last page of issue #200. The first person to correctly pick that page was Rascally *Roy DeRousse* of Manchester, Missouri! Congratulations, Roy! Your No-Prize should be arriving in no-time at all!

And finally, on the matter of Spider-Man's ever-lovin' supporting cast... we really have to disagree. Over the years, the response we've gotten *vis-a-vis* the appearance of everyone from Betty Brant to Debra Whitman has been on a par with our readership's reaction to the old Wall-Crawler himself. Does any one else have any views of this subject? As always, we want to hear your opinions! —R.S.

Dear Marvel,

I'd like to congratulate one and all for AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200. It was by far the best single SPIDER-MAN comicbook of the last decade... a fitting culmination to the 200 issues needed to mold Spider-Man's character. It was fitting, knowing the cyclical nature of Spider-Man's life, that he should polish off the Burglar, his first adversary. And though the plot element of having the buried treasure eaten by silverfish was too hackneyed for words, and the final page too reminiscent of the end of SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #5, I felt so proud of Peter Parker that I didn't care. We finally got a fitting rationale for someone becoming a super hero... a longing for justice and a loathing for cruelty and crime.

Anything less seems trivial in comparison. You did right by Spider-Man, guys!

Lazarus Dobelsky
202 Kambrook Road
Caulfield 2162
Victoria, Australia

And finally, this short note sums everything up... —R.S.

To all involved with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200:

Earlier today, I was asking myself why I, at the age of 25, still read comicbooks. Thanks for answering my question.

Roger Enevoldsen
324 Georgia Avenue
North Augusta, SC 29841